CLAIMS

1.   A method for processing an original graphical element having an associated original type, the method comprising:

blending at least part of the original graphical element and at least part of at least one other graphical element to produce a transformed graphical element having an associated transformed type, the transformed type being different than the original type;

storing information about the original type for the original graphical element; and

processing at least one of the transformed graphical element and an adjacent graphical element using the stored information about the original type.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing information about a type associated with the at least one other graphical element.

3.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing information about a colorspace and a color for the original graphical element.

4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing an original shape of the at least part of the original graphical element.

5.   The method of claim 4 wherein:

storing the original shape includes storing the original shape as a path of the at least part of the original graphical element.

6.   The method of claim 4 wherein:

storing the original shape includes storing the original shape as a text glyph of the original graphical element.

1   7.   The method of claim 4 wherein:

2   processing includes locating one or more edges in the transformed graphical element

3   using the stored original shape.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 wherein:

2   the transformed graphical element is a rasterized representation of the blended at least

3   part of the original graphical element and at least part of the at least one other graphical

4   element.

1   9.   The method of claim 1 wherein:

2   storing information about the original type includes storing information about the

3   original type in an invisible graphical element.

1   10.   The method of claim 1 wherein:

2   storing information about the original type includes storing information about the

3   original type in an XML element.

1   11.   The method of claim 1 wherein:

2   processing includes trapping at least one of the transformed graphical element and the

3   adjacent graphical element.

1   12.   The method of claim 11 wherein:

2   trapping includes using a path of the transformed graphical element to represent a

3   path of the at least part of the original graphical element.

1   13.   The method of claim 11 wherein:

2   trapping includes using a color of the transformed graphical element to calculate a

3   color of a trap element.

1　14.　The method of claim 11 wherein:

2　trapping includes using trapping rules that depend on the stored information about the

3　original type.

1　15.　The method of claim 1 wherein:

2　processing includes halftoning at least one of the transformed graphical element and

3　the adjacent graphical element.

1　16.　The method of claim 1 wherein:

2　blending includes flattening at least part of the original graphical element and at least

3　part of the at least one other graphical element to produce the transformed graphical element.

1　17.　The method of claim 1 wherein:

2　at least one of the original graphical element and the at least one other graphical

3　element is a transparent graphical element; and

4　the transformed graphical element is an opaque graphical element.

1　18.　The method of claim 1 wherein:

2　the original graphical element was produced by blending two or more previous

3　graphical elements; and

4　storing information about the original type includes storing information about a type

5　associated with at least one of the previous graphical elements.

1　19.　The method of claim 1 wherein:

2　the original type comprises a member of a set of types, the types in the set of types

3　including raster, vector stroke, vector fill, image mask, soft mask, glyph, and gradient.

1   20.   The method of claim 1 wherein:

2   the transformed type is raster.

1   21.   The method of claim 1 wherein:

2   the original type is not associated with the transformed graphical element.

1   22.   A computer program product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, for

2   processing an original graphical element having an associated original type, the product

3   comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable system to:

4   blend at least part of the original graphical element and at least part of at least one

5   other graphical element to produce a transformed graphical element having an associated

6   transformed type, the transformed type being different than the original type;

7   store information about the original type for the original graphical element; and

8   process at least one of the transformed graphical element and an adjacent graphical

9   element using the stored information about the original type.

1   23.   The product of claim 22 wherein:

2   the transformed graphical element is a rasterized representation of the blended at least

3   part of the original graphical element and at least part of the at least one other graphical

4   element.

1   24.   The product of claim 22 wherein:

2   the instructions operable to cause a programmable system to process include

3   instructions operable to cause a programmable system to trap at least one of the transformed

4   graphical element and the adjacent graphical element.

1   25.   The product of claim 22 wherein:

2   at least one of the original graphical element and the at least one other graphical

3   element is a transparent graphical element; and

4   the transformed graphical element is an opaque graphical element.

1   26.   The product of claim 22 wherein:

2   the original type is not associated with the transformed graphical element.